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R U L E S
AND
R E G U L A T I O N S,
OF AN
I N S T I T U T I O N
CALLLED THE
Itinerant Methodist Preachers'
ANNUITY.

Begun in BRISTOL, *August* 7th, 1798.



A prudent Man foreseeth the Evil, and hideth himself.

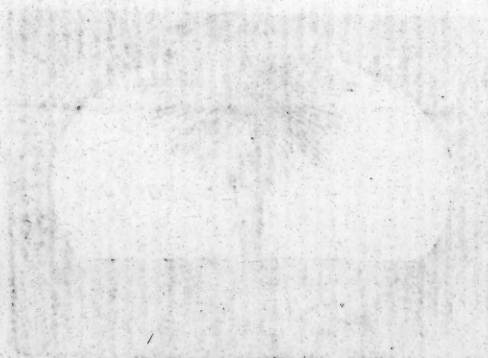
SOLOMON.

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B R I S T O L :

P R I N T E D B Y R. E D W A R D S, B R O A D - S T R E E T.

1800.

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R U L E S, &c.

At several meetings held by adjournment from August 7, to August 9, 1798, inclusive, to take into consideration a Plan to remedy the distressed condition of worn-out Itinerant Preachers, late in connexion with the Rev. J. WESLEY, the Society above specified was formed.

AS the support afforded by what is called THE PREACHERS' FUND, is found to be greatly inadequate to supply the necessities of the Preachers and Widows who are now dependent on it; the OBJECT of this Institution, is, to provide an *additional* supply for the Supernumerary and Superannuated Preachers and their Widows, according to the provisions hereafter mentioned.

It is therefore resolved,

1. That this Institution be called THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITY.

2. That this Society be composed of those *only* who are *Itinerant Preachers, under the direction of the Conference of the People called Methodists*.—Repealed, see Rule 1st, of the additional Rules.

3. That no Preacher be admitted a Member of this Society who labours under any known disorder.—Repealed, see Rule 1st, of the additional Rules.

4. That after August the 7th, 1799, no Person shall be admitted a Member of this Society who is above 45 years of age: and in the interim, viz. from the present date, August 7, 1798, to the time above specified, viz. August 7, 1799, no person shall be admitted who is above *fifty* years of age.—Repealed, see Rule 2d, of the additional Rules.

5. That every Preacher under thirty-one years of age, shall pay on his admission, *one guinea*; above thirty-one and under thirty-six, *one guinea and a half*; above thirty-six and

and under forty-one, *two guineas*; above forty-one and under forty-five, *four guineas*.—

N. B. Those who are above forty-five and under fifty, who may be admitted in the course of the present year, (beyond which the admission of any above forty-five years of age does not extend) shall pay on admission *five guineas*.—Repealed, see Rule 3d, of the additional Rules.

6. That every Preacher shall subscribe annually *one guinea*; the money to be paid at the time of Conference.

7. That every Member of this Society who is made a Supernumerary, or is Superannuated by the Conference, shall receive from this Institution the sum of *Twelve Guineas* per ann. the payments to be made every six months, and to commence from the time in which the said Member was superannuated or made a Supernumerary.—Amended, see Rule 4th, of the additional Rules.

8. That the Widow of said Member, under the Regulations hereafter mentioned, shall receive the aforesaid sum of *Twelve Guineas*,

to be paid as above specified, as long as said Widow continues unmarried ; but that her annuity on her marriage shall immediately cease : it being generally understood that the husband provides for his wife.—Amended, see Rule 4th, of the additional Rules.

9. That every Annuitant shall continue to subscribe *one guinea* annually, to the support of this Fund, at the time above-mentioned.

10. That no Member of this Institution shall be considered as a Supernumerary or Superannuated Preacher, but he who is declared such by the Methodist Conference, on account of some Corporeal or Mental Infirmary.

11. That if a Member of this Society above fifty-five years of age marry a Woman under forty, she shall not at his decease be entitled to any support from this Fund.

12. That a Member expelled from the Methodist connexion by the Conference, or who shall of his own accord withdraw from being an Itinerant Preacher, or from continuing to be a Member of this Society, shall be considered as excluded to all intents and purposes, from receiving any benefit from this Institution ;

tion; and that said Member shall forfeit all the Monies he has paid into its Funds.

13. That no Member shall be considered as *free* of this Fund, or be entitled to any relief from it on any of the Regulations above-mentioned, till he has regularly subscribed to it for *five* years.

14. That a Treasurer be appointed, who shall receive and put out as soon as possible to legal Interest, the Monies belonging to this Institution, giving proper security for such Monies to the Society, and that THOMAS ROBERTS, of *Somerset-street*, in the city of *Bristol*, Esq. be appointed the Treasurer.

15. That two Stewards be chosen annually, who shall be empowered to draw such Monies out of the Treasurer's hands, as may, on the Rules and Regulations of this Fund, be claimed by any Member of this Society.

16. That if in the judgment of a majority of the Members of this Society, its Funds should be found to have increased so as to admit of an increase of the Annuities, such addition shall be made to the Annuities, as in
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the judgment of the majority of the Members, the Funds shall be deemed capable of affording.

17. That if the *Expenditure* should at any time exceed the *Income*, a majority of the Members, at one of the annual Conferences of the People called Methodists, shall fix on a plan which shall cause the *Income* at least to equal the *Expenditure*, by *increasing* the annual Subscriptions, or by *lessening* the Annuities, or by *both*,—or, by any other method which the wisdom of the Members may devise, so as still to preserve the Institution according to its original Spirit and Design.

18. Provided, that if this Society should be so diminished as not to be able to support *two* Annuitants, then the Society shall be dissolved, and the remaining Monies equally divided among the surviving Members.

19. That every thing relative to the management of this Society, shall be done by a majority of the Members then present.

20. That after the present Conference, every new Member shall be chosen by *Ballot*.—Repealed,

pealed, see Rule 12th, of the additional Rules.

21. That any Member neglecting to send his annual Subscription at the time above-mentioned, shall be fined, for the first year *Two Shillings and Sixpence*, for the second year, *Half-a-Guinea*; the fines to be thrown into the common stock: but if he neglect to send in his Subscription for *three* years, he shall be excluded, and forfeit all the Monies he has paid into this Fund; unless such person may have been employed by the Conference in any of the foreign Missions; the case of such a Member to be determined by a majority of the Members then present.

22. If any Member of this Society become a Supernumerary, or be Superannuated (according to the provisions already made) before he has subscribed for *five* years regularly, he shall not be entitled to any benefit from this Fund, till he has subscribed to it for the *five* years already specified.—Repealed, see Rule 12th, of the additional Rules.

23. If any Member die before he be *free*

of this Fund, his Widow shall not be entitled to any benefit from it.—Repealed, see Rule 12th, of the additional Rules.

24. If a man who is Superannuated or a Supernumerary, and who is a claimant on this Fund, become again an effective man, he shall cease to be an Annuitant : but if he become again a Supernumerary, or be Superannuated, he shall have the same claim as heretofore, on the provisions and regulations already mentioned.

25. That the Committee for managing the concerns of this Society be the Eleven persons following :

JOSEPH BRADFORD, of *Kingfwood*, in the
County of *Glocester* ;

JAMES ROGERS, of *Stroud*, in the same
County ;

WILLIAM HORNER, of *Bradford*, *Wilts* ;

THOMAS RUTHERFORD, of *Liverpool*,
Lancashire ;

HENRY MOORE, of the City of *Bath*,
Somersetshire ;

ADAM CLARKE, of the City of *Bristol* ;

WALTER

WALTER GRIFFITH, of the same ;
 WILLIAM JENKINS, of the same ;
 JOHN GAULTIER, of *Oldham, Lancashire* ;
 OWEN DAVIS, of *Penzance, Cornwall* ; and
 SAMUEL TAYLOR, of *Shrewsbury, Salop* :
 all Itinerant Preachers, late in connexion with
 the *Rev. John Wesley*.

26. That all difficulties and disputes relative to the business of this Society, shall be referred to a Committee of Eleven persons chosen by ballot from the Members then present ; and the judgment of the majority shall be finally decisive, provided the said judgment be not contrary to any thing in the existing Rules of this Society.

27. That these Rules shall be registered according to the provisions made by an Act of Parliament for the legalization and support of charitable Institutions.

Signed in behalf of the Society,

HENRY MOORE, Chairman.

ADAM CLARKE, Secretary.

BRISTOL, *Aug. 9, 1798.*

City

City of Bristol,
and County of } To wit.
the same City.

At the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in and for the City of Bristol, and County of the same City, in the Guildhall of the said City, on Monday the Fifteenth day of July, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-nine, before Robert Claxton, Esq. Mayor of the said City; and Edward Brice, and John Harris, Esqrs. Aldermen of the same City, Justices assigned, and so forth.

At this Court the foregoing Rules, Orders, and Regulations were exhibited to the said Justices assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held as above-mentioned, who, after due examination thereof, allowed and confirmed the same.

Signed, at the above Sessions, by

WORRALL,
Town-Clerk, and Clerk of the Peace.

ADDITIONAL
RULES & REGULATIONS,

WITH

AMENDMENTS of the Preceding,

Drawn up at the annual Meeting, in Manchester,

AUGUST 8, 1799.

AT a General Meeting of the Members of the Society called, "THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITY," (registered at the Quarter Sessions held for the City of *Bristol*, July 15, 1799,) held for the purpose of altering, amending, and revising their Rules, according to the provisions made for that purpose in section 1st of an Act of Parliament, entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Societies," it was agreed,

1. That Rule the 3d of the registered Rules of said Society, should be repealed, and they do hereby declare that, said Rule is null and void; and that instead thereof the following Rule be added, viz. That every Preacher who is now, or shall be
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hereafter received into full connexion with the Conference of the people called *Methodists*, may become a Member of this Society.

2. The same agree, that Rule the 4th of said registered Rules should be repealed, and they do hereby declare said Rule to be null and void.

3. The same agree, that Rule the 5th of said Rules should be repealed, and they do hereby declare said Rule to be null and void; and that instead thereof the following be added, viz. That as the Methodist Preachers, late in connexion with the late *Rev. John Wesley*, have a property in Books, in their Book-room, *City Road, London*, which property is valued at, and is worth **SIX THOUSAND POUNDS** sterling; and that said Preachers, including the present Members of this Society, agree to convey said property to this Society, to be applied to its use according to the Rules and Regulations of the same: and that the Steward of said Book-room shall give a
bond

bond to the Treasurer of said Society, for the above sum of SIX THOUSAND POUNDS sterling, bearing legal interest from the date of these presents, which interest is to be paid annually into the hands of said Treasurer, to be applied to the use of said Society, according to its Rules and Regulations.

4. The above agree, that the Annuity of *Twelve Guineas* in Rules the 7th and 8th, be increased to *Twenty-four Guineas*, according to the provision made in Rule the 16th, of said registered Rules.

5. The above agree to *add* the following Rule, viz. That every Preacher who has travelled regularly *twenty years*, in connexion with, and under the direction of the Conference of the people called Methodists, shall, on being Superannuated, or declared Supernumerary, according to what is specified in Rule the 10th of said registered Rules, be entitled to *Thirty Guineas* per annum, to be paid to him according to the regulation in Rule the 7th.

6. The above agree, that the Widow of a Preacher who has been married to said Preacher after he had travelled *twenty years*, shall not be entitled to the Annuity of *Thirty Guineas*, till she have paid down *Ten Guineas* for the use of this Society, over and above what her said husband had paid before into said Society's funds; but that said Widow may, and shall be permitted to pay said *ten guineas* by instalments of two or more guineas per annum, above her annual subscription.

7. The above agree, that if any married Preacher die before he have travelled *ten years*, his Widow shall not be entitled to the Annuity of *twenty-four Guineas*, till she have paid *ten Guineas* into the funds of said Society; but that said Widow shall be permitted to pay said *ten Guineas* by instalments, as in the preceding case.

8. And whereas it has been usual for several of the Members and friends of the Methodist Societies, late in connexion with the late *Rev. John Wesley*, to subscribe certain monies
annually,

annually, for the support of Superannuated Preachers and their Widows, and whereas provision is made in foresaid Act, for the receiving such voluntary subscriptions; it is hereby agreed by the above meeting, that an account of such contributions shall be taken by the Steward of the Society, and kept separate from the account of the subscriptions of the Members of said Society: and for the better execution of the merciful designs of said contributions, it is hereby agreed, that a Committee of at least Eleven persons, according to section the 5th of foresaid Act, shall be chosen by *ballot*, at the annual meeting of said Society; which Committee shall hear all claims on the aforesaid contribution, and shall determine on the sum to be allowed to each claimant, as a Member of, or claimant on said Society, according to the *fourth* and *fifth* of the present additional Rules and Regulations, and if said claimant be dissatisfied with the sum allowed to *him* or *her*, by said Committee, *he* or *she* may appeal to the Society at large, at their next
annual

annual meeting, whose judgment shall be final and decisive.

9. The same agree, that the Books of said Society shall be *so* kept that any Member may have free access to them at all times.

10. The same agree, that all the accompts of said Society shall be publicly read over at, and approved by the annual meeting of said Society.

11. The above agree, that after the present year, every new Member shall, on his admission, pay *Five Guineas* into the funds of said Society; and that this Rule shall take place of Rule the 13th of foresaid registered Rules; which 13th Rule is hereby declared to be null and void.

12. The above agree, that Rules the 20th, 22d, and 23d, of foresaid registered Rules should be repealed, and they do hereby declare said Rules to be null and void.

13. The same agree, that these Rules, Amendments and Alterations be also registered with the other Rules and Regulations of said Society, according to the provisions
made

made for that purpose, in section the *third* of the aforesaid Act.

Signed, by order of the Society,

HENRY MOORE, Chairman.

ADAM CLARKE, Secretary.

N. B. At the Anniversary Meeting above-mentioned, THOMAS ROBERTS, Esq. Treasurer to this Society, received from this Society by my hands, the sum of *SIX HUNDRED POUNDS* sterling, for which he has now given his bond to the Clerk of the Peace.

ADAM CLARKE, Secretary.

BRISTOL, *Jan. 17, 1800.*

I acknowledge the Receipt of the above Sum.

T. ROBERTS.

City

City of Bristol,
and County of } To wit.
the same City.

At the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in and for the City of Bristol, and County of the same City, in the Guildhall of the said City, on Friday the seventeenth day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred, before John Morgan, Esq. Mayor of the said City, Sir John Durbin, Knight, and John Noble, Esq. Aldermen of the same City, Justices assigned and so forth.

At this Court the last written foregoing Rules, Orders and Regulations, were exhibited to the said Justices at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held as above-mentioned, who after due examination thereof, (as far as the Act of Parliament in that behalf extends) allowed and confirmed the same.

Signed, at the above Sessions, by

WORRALL,

Town-Clerk, and Clerk of the Peace.

